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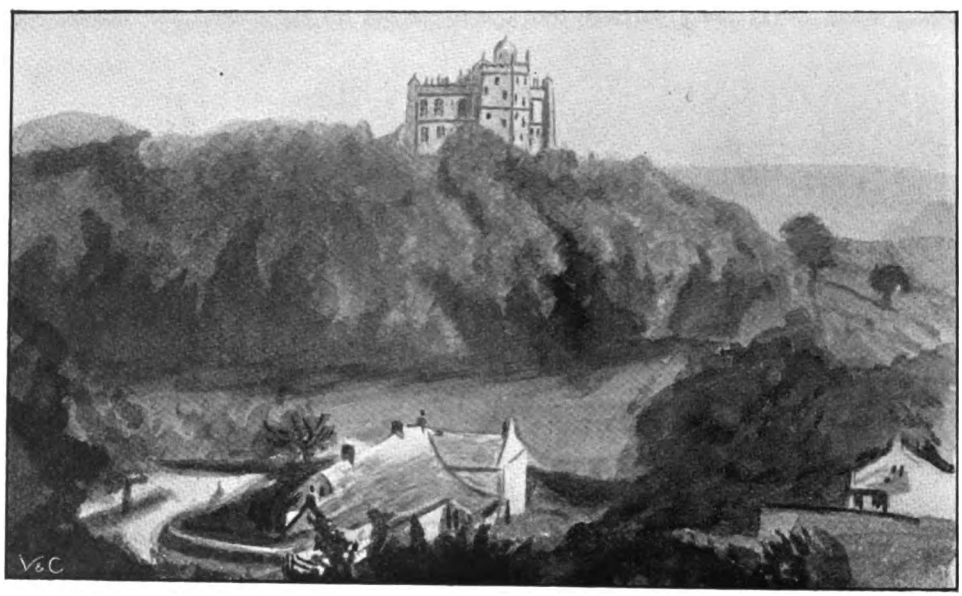

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HISTORY

OF

BOLSOVER:

ITS

Town, Caſtle, Bethlehem, etc.

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THE

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Preface.

MY thanks are due to all thoſe who have kindly helped me in this little work. Firſt of all to the Duke of Portland, for permiſſion to examine and meaſure his Caſtle; to Mr. A. Hartſhorne, Mr. J. Adin, and Mr. C. Hinde, for the loan of MSS. and papers; the Librarians of the Britiſh Muſeum, Record Office, City of London Muſeum, Muſeum of Practical Geology, the Bradford, Sheffield, and Doncaſter Public Libraries, for help in ſearching for ancient books and MSS.; to the Marquis of Normanby, the Marquis de Ruvigney, Miſs May Kendall, Mr. A. Hartſhorne, and others, for help in reviſing; and my old friend, Mr. E. Da Coſta, for kind aſſiſtance in the ſearch of books.

The illuſtrations are drawn by Mr. J. Harrison, of Cheſterfield. The view of the Caſtle is taken from Pegge's "Hiſtory of Bolſover," 1785, and ſlightly differs from the Caſtle as it now ſtands.

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Liſt of Illuſtrations.

Caſtle in 1895 - - - - - - - - - - *Frontiſpiece*

PAGE.

Plan of Bolſover, 1642 - - - - - - - - - - - 17

Caſtle in 1795, from old print - - - - - - - - - 21

Plan of Keep - - - - - - - - - - - - - 27

Tympanum - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 44

Bethlehem - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 49

The

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The Name

THE ſmall town of Derbyſhire now called Bolſover—or, locally, "Bozer"—takes its name from "over," which means a "high place," and "Bel," or Baal, the name of the heathen god; and thus Bolſover would ſignify, "Bel's high place."

It is an open queſtion whether this "Bel" was the Phœnician god of that name, or whether he was an independent Britiſh god of fire, more or leſs connected with tin and lead ſmelting. But as tin and lead mining in the early days of England was encouraged by, if not carried on by, the Phœnicians, it is moſt likely that the affixes, "Bel," "Bal," and "Bol," are of Phœnician origin. Higgins, Leigh, and Rawlinſon, with the author of "Britannia Antiqua Illuſtrata," are ſtrongly in favour of the theory that the Phœnicians were early viſitors to, if not colonizers of, Great Britain.

In ſome places of Great Britain fires are ſtill ſaid to be lighted upon high hills—a relick of the days when ſuch "boles," or wind hearths, were ignited in honour of Bel. A tradition exiſts that the church ſtands on the ſite of a heathen temple, for which no fitter "high place" could be found

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found than the heights of Bolſover. The names "Bele" and "Bal" occur among the various ſpellings of Bolſover. Other names in the neighbourhood are found with the name "Bel," as—Belper, Ballidon, Arbelow (which is one of the original heathen temples ſtill ſtanding), Beeley, etc.

William Bray ſays: "Near the church of Elleſborough" (probably in Bucks., near Tring), "on a round hill, is an ancient fortification, called Belinuſ's Caſtle, above which is an high hill called Belineſbury Hill." This deſcription anſwers very well to Bolſover; hence it is probable that the fortifications (earthworks) of Bolſover and Belinus were to protect the Beltein fires which were kindled on the 1ſt May.

The following liſt conſiſts of various readings of Bolſover, with the authority and date:—

Balſover.	Guthrie's Atlas, 1818.
Boulſover.	Ancient maps in the Derby Muſeum, 1500-1800.
Bolleſover.	Document, in the hands of Mr. C. Hinde, Bolſover, dated 1656.
Beleſovre.	Domeſday Book.
Bowlſouer.	Back of playing cards, 17th century (ſee *Strand Magazine*, Feb., 1893).
Bolſovers.	Inq. Poſt Mortem, 14th century.
Buleſhour.	Rotuli Litterarum Pat., 14th century.
Bozer.	Catalogue of State Papers, 1644.

The

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The Town.

BOLSOVER, in its earlier days, muſt have preſented an impoſing appearance, ſtanding then, as it does ſtill, on the contour of a high and lofty range of hills, commanding ſome 200 ſquare miles of the valley beneath, with its Caſtle, ſtrong and prepared for war, towering up againſt the ſky, flanked with its grim and mercileſs Norman walls.

On the ſide of the town, as far from the Caſtle as poſſible, and all but outſide the old earth defences, as if fearleſs of hurt, the Pariſh Church reared its ſteepled tower, pointing upward, and teaching other leſſons than thoſe of war and bloodſhed.

And the townſpeople dwelling between the Church and the Caſtle, with the matin bell from the one ſide calling them to their daily maſs, the bugle ſounding all day long from the other ſide, and at any moment ready to blow the alarm blaſt of battle, in thoſe medieval, troublous days; the Prieſt alone, guarded by his ſacred order, fearleſs alike of Baron or foe.

To us, in theſe days of ſtrikes and mob-rule, a colliery village with its unarmed, half-ruinous caſtle, preſents a vaſtly different ſpectacle from that of a garriſoned town with

a

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a caſtle filled with warriors clad in mail, and armed *cap-à-pie*, accuſtomed to order and obey at the blowing of a trumpet, and to march with the clanging of the cymbals and the beating of the drum into the din of battle and the jaws of death, the Market Place liable to be filled with carnage at any moment.

To get a truer idea of the importance of Bolſover ſome 500 or 600 years ago, we muſt remember that it was the only fortified town in the neighbourhood, and that it equalled in importance, if it did not exceed, the Sheffield, Rotherham, Cheſterfield, and Manſfield of thoſe days.

Earthworks.

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Earthworks.

ROUND the town of Bolſover there are to be ſeen the greater portions of ſome large earth fortifications, conſiſting of a high mound and outſide ditch. Earthworks of any kind are by no means commonly found in Derbyſhire, and, indeed, it is a rare occurrence to find any village or town with earth fortifications ſtill encircling it round about. And where ſuch earthworks are found—as at Abury, Pleſhey, and Bolſover—their origin is loſt in obſcurity, and no legend has come down with them. And ſo we can but form opinions and arrive at poſſibilities and probabilities.

As will be ſeen by the Plan of Bolſover, theſe earthworks here are of a peculiar form, and differ from thoſe of Pleſhey and Abury, in that while theſe two are circular in form—as are moſt earthworks—the earthworks at Bolſover end at the edge of the hill, unleſs they ever ran along the contour of the range, as at Byrth Hill. The encampment moſt reſembling Bolſover is at Markland Gripps, where the remains of ſome earth mounds may ſtill be viewed, which in old days cut off a portion of a promontory. As theſe are within four miles of each other, it is likely that they have a common origin.

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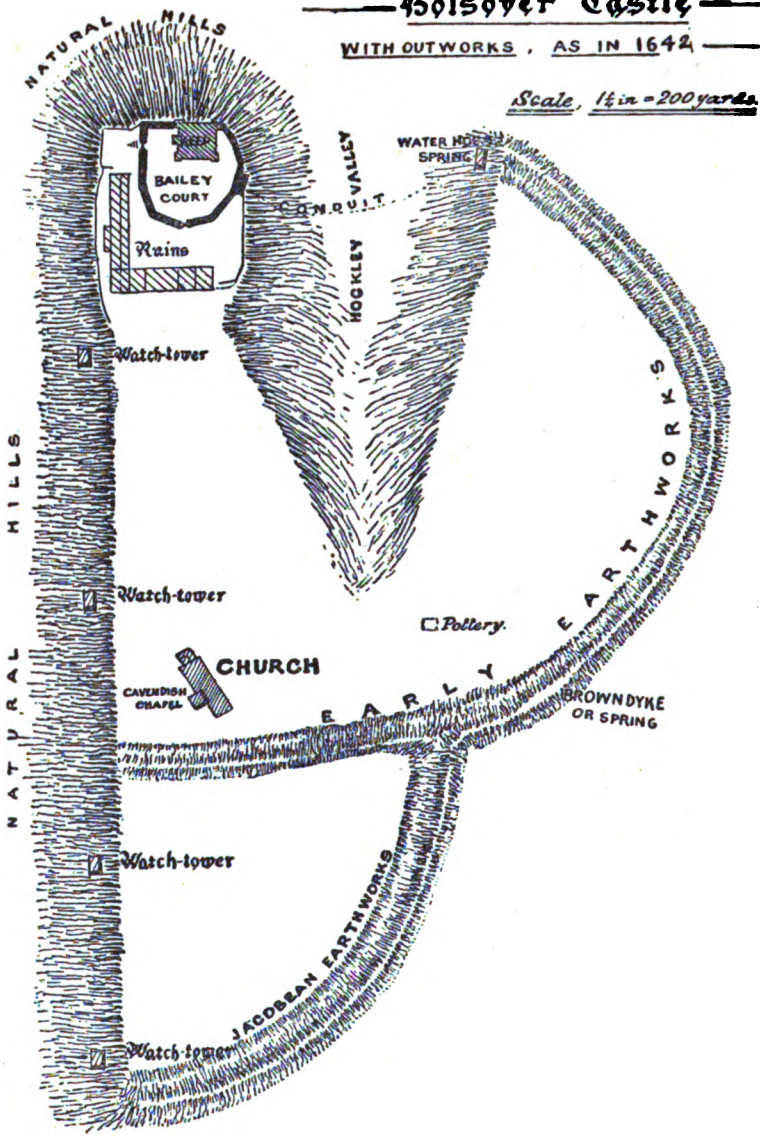
Bolsover Castle

WITH OUTWORKS, AS IN 1642

Scale, 1 in = 200 yards.



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It is poſſible that Bolſover encloſure was a collecting-place for the warriors in very early days, round their temple and fires, when there was no caſtle to defend the inhabitants of this hidden but important village on the moors ; and that the encloſure at Markland was not ſo much a place of defence as of retreat and an inner hiding-place, to which women, children, and cattle might eſcape acroſs the ſwamps when a foe was ſeen approaching this eaſtern range from the oppoſite heights.

The earthworks on the ſouth-eaſt ſide have all but diſappeared, but can ſtill be traced (1895) partly within the churchyard wall, completing the irregular curve coming from the north. This portion of the mound and ditch has been deſtroyed to form a roadway. The ending of the mound and ditch at Hill Top is peculiar, as it takes a ſudden curve as if to be continued back along the edge of the crags, and by no means covers the Caſtle promontory, but leaves a commanding poſition outſide, actually looking down upon the Caſtle walls, which might eaſily have been avoided by a rather larger ſweep.

At the Brown dyke (a ſpring and horſe pond now), a branch mound and ditch, ſimilar to the other, runs in a ſouth-eaſt curve, meeting the edge of the hills where the laſt of the four Watch Towers takes up the defence. As theſe Watch Towers were erected about 1642, and this branch of the earthworks joins them—*i.e.*, completes the

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outer defence—this fact ſeems to date this wing of the earthworks as of Stuart date; the object of both poſſibly being the protection (in that troublous time during the revolt of Cromwell) of the new chapel and coſtly tomb juſt added to the Church, in memory of Sir Charles Cavendiſh, 1617.

Whether Bolſover was ever a walled town, or in the days of the Norman Caſtle had a ſtrong wall running along the edge of the hills now occupied by the Watch Towers, we have at preſent no evidence to prove. The preſent garden walls belonging to the houſes in High Street ſhow no ſigns of antiquity or uniformity.

Caſtle.

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Caſtle.

THE abſence of any mention of the Caſtle of Bolſover in the Domeſday ſurvey, combined with the fact that there is neither remnant nor record of an earlier ſtronghold, is good evidence that no ſtone caſtle exiſted prior to the Norman invaſion. But about 1120 A.D. a Caſtle was built (as Hamilton-Gray very ably ſhows), probably by William Peverel the younger. This ſtronghold paſſed through various viciſſitudes, at one time being held by a governor for the ruling king, at another being held by ſome rebel baron or more or leſs independent favourite. So conſtant were the changes, that in eleven years—1223-1234—in the reign of Henry III., there were eleven changes in the governors.

At one time the Earl of Cheſter was lord of Bolſover; then the Marquis of Abergavenny; Edmund Tudor, the father of Henry VII.; the Duke of Norfolk, the firſt or ſecond of the title (which, by the way, is the oldeſt ducal title in England); the Earl of Shrewſbury; the Marquis of Newcaſtle; the Cavendiſh family; and now the Duke of Portland.

At one time, Charles I. honoured Bolſover Caſtle with his preſence. Soon after, Cromwell's ſoldiers deſpoiled its armoury.

There

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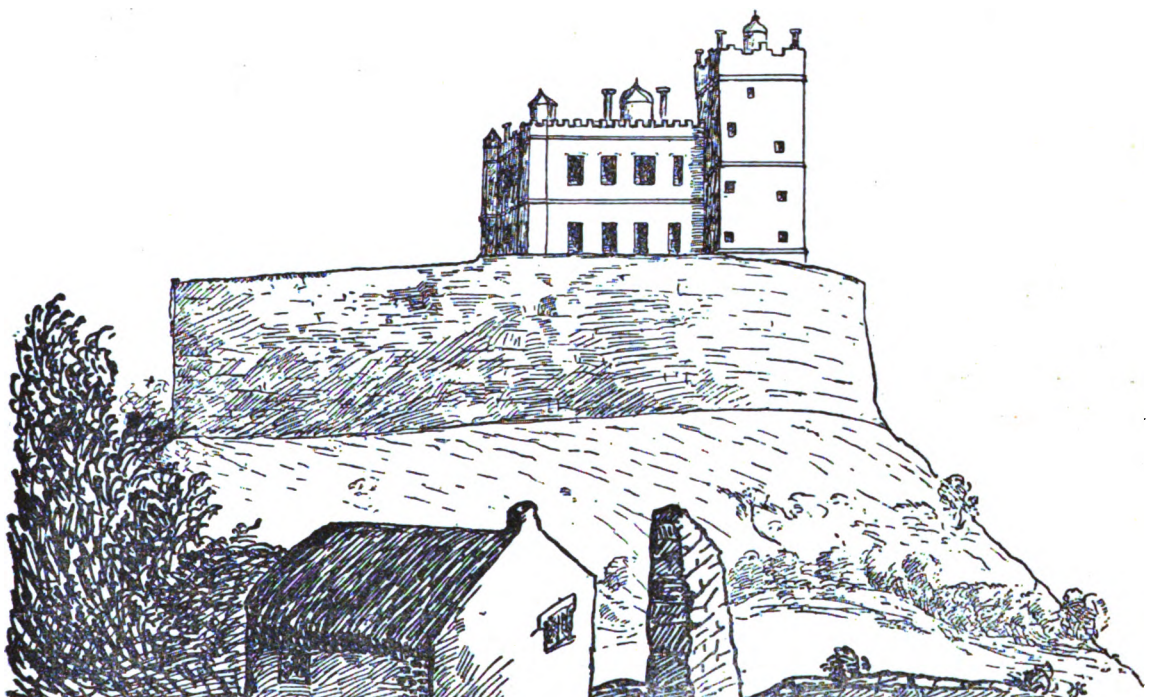

Bolsover Castle (Eighteenth Century).

From old view in British Museum.

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There are no viſible remains of the Norman Caſtle now exiſting. The ſite of the Caſtle was well choſen. It ſtands on a rocky promontory (yellow limeſtone) overhanging the great Scarſdale Valley, protected, in earlier days, from behind by the boggy moors, ſince redeemed, but ſtill retaining the name in the "Bolſover Moor."

Probably the outſide boundary of the actual Norman fortreſs was the footway leading from Hockley up the Breck, paſt the preſent National Schools, and down Caſtle Lane toward Sutton. A ſimilar fortreſs, occupying a tongue of land, may be found at Berry Head, in Devonſhire, now in ruins.

The earlieſt portion of the preſent Caſtle buildings is the Early Engliſh arch, joining the ruins to the circular wall.

The next in date is the circular wall, encloſing the ſpace called the bailey. This is of Early Tudor times, as is ſhewn by the architecture of the windows and alcoves, and erected about 1480.

The ſquare Keep is pure Elizabethan from baſement to roof, inſide and out, and is almoſt the only Elizabethan Caſtle (as diſtinct from Hall and Manſion) in exiſtence. It was built in the early days of James I., and completed about 1616.

The Ruins are a few years later, and the Riding School later ſtill.

The

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The four Watch Towers, and probably the eaſt wing of the earthworks, were put up about 1642 (which date Hamilton-Gray ſeems to have deciphered on one of the towers), on the firſt indication of civil war.

As ſome have claimed a portion of the preſent Keep to be of Norman architecture, it may be well to ſtate that Pegge (who wrote in 1785) and Glover (1831) both aſſert that there were in their days no remains of Norman architecture to be ſeen, and careful examination now confirms their ſtatement.

There ſeems to be no deſcription or picture of the Norman Caſtle as yet diſcovered, but probably it ſtood on the ſame ground as the preſent building; and it would be intereſting to know what became of all the ſhaped ſtones that formed the Norman arches. The oldeſt pictures of the Caſtle are by Diepenbeck, 1620; Buck, 1728; Rook, 1783.

Courtyard

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Courtyard or Bailey Wall.

THIS wall is one of the moſt intereſting and unique portions of the Caſtle. It is 500 feet from end to end, fourteen feet high, and ten feet wide. The actual wall may be in ſome places ten feet thick; or theſe ſeemingly thick portions may be hollow, which is the more probable, as in ſeveral places where there are rooms the wall is only twenty inches in thickneſs.

The ſhape of the wall is an irregular multilateral figure, of about ten unequal ſides. The date of the wall as it now ſtands would be about 1480, and was probably erected either by Edmund Tudor or his ſon, Henry VII.

There are three early Tudor alcoves opening into the bailey, about five feet deep; and five rooms, the architecture of which is much later than that of the alcoves, two being Elizabethan, like the Keep, and three which are together are Georgian. Through one of theſe later rooms an opening was evidently once made and uſed as a temporary cartway.

There are no windows or loopholes of any kind on the outſide of this wall, from which a gun could have been fired or any active defence made. There are no battlements to the walls as they now ſtand, but they are ſhown in Cavendiſh's "Horſemanſhip" as exiſting in the ſeventeenth century.

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The Keep.

THE large ſquare building, ſtill as perfect as when it was erected, may be called the Keep, or Stronghold; and is very ſtrongly built. The outſide walls vary in thickneſs from five feet in the baſement to nineteen inches about the middle, oddly enough increaſing in thickneſs again toward the top, where they are three and a half feet in ſome places.

Some of the inſide walls are very thick, the thickeſt being in the upper floor, and apparently of ſolid ſtone. Hence, as the floors and ſtairs are of ſtone or concrete, the weight at the top muſt be enormous.

The Keep is 60 feet ſquare on the outſide, and 95 feet high in its higheſt point, and contains 26 rooms, beſides ſmall odd compartments.

The Dining Hall (33 feet by 21 feet) is wainſcotted with oak and has a fine Elizabethan groined roof, and, like other rooms in the building, contains large pictures, painted on the walls. The fireplaces throughout the Keep are compoſed of various marbles and are well worth careful examination, and remain in a very perfect ſtate.

The Baſement and Ground Floor are of great intereſt, as here may be ſeen the pillars and groined roofs ſupporting

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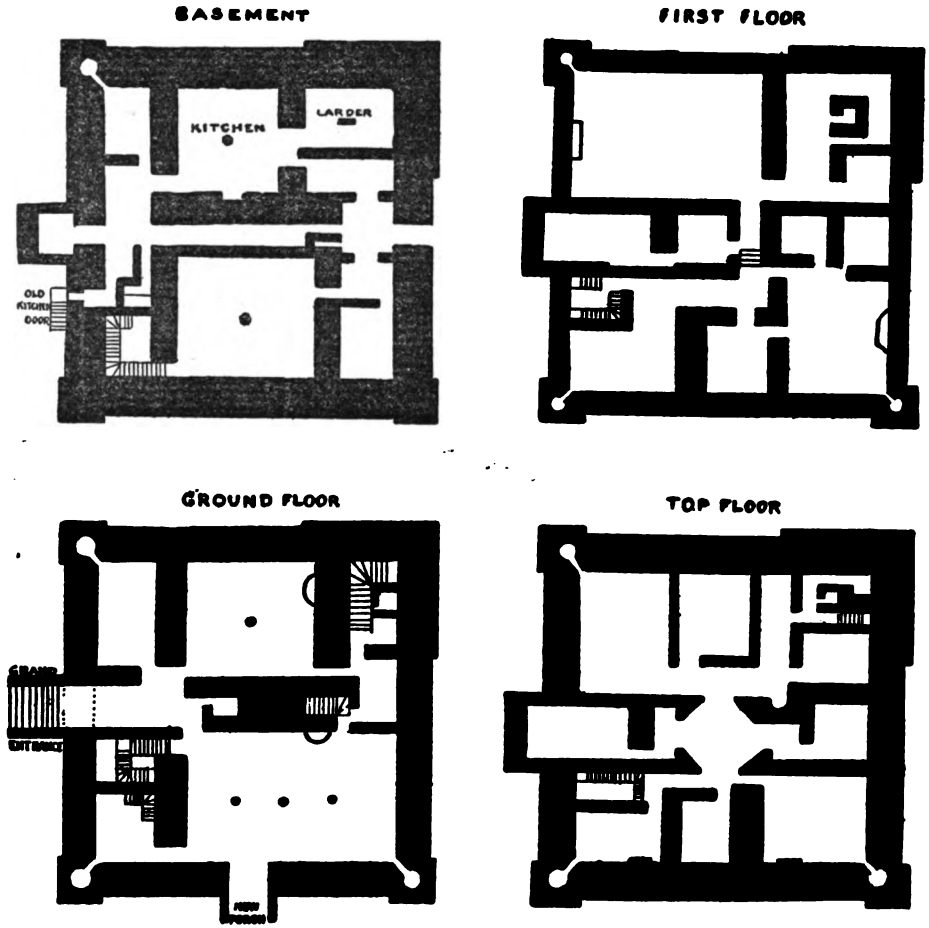
Castle Keep:

Ground Plan of Floors. 1894.



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ing the reſt of the building. As may generally be ſeen in ancient ſtructures, great attention was given to the foundation, hence Bolſover Keep, after braving the gales, which ſweep up the valley, for nigh upon 300 years, is ſtill as perfect as when it was built. The baſement columns are all pure Elizabethan—ſquare, with the corners bevelled, except the column in the larder (of the ſame date), which is oblong, and of greater thickneſs to uphold the maſs of ſtonework on the ſtairs above.

In the centre of the leaden roof riſes a dome-ſhaped lantern, giving light to the unique "chatting alcoves" in the "Parlour" below.

Early

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Early Engliſh Archway.

CONNECTING the circular wall with the ruins is the earlieſt ſpecimen of ſtonework now viſible at the Caſtle, namely, a Gothic archway acting as a bridge. This dates from the thirteenth century, and runs ſlightly ſideways through a ten feet wall, ſo as to form a partial protection from an arrow ſhot.

This archway was poſſibly the commencement of an outer wall, and when the Manſion (now in ruins) was erected, it was evidently utilized as an outſide and upper entrance to the Manſion, as ſeen by a blocked up doorway. There is no appearance of a direct and covered connection between the Keep and the Manſion, unleſs it is poſſible that there was a ſecond floor to the circular wall, forming a long, covered paſſage; which ſeems hardly likely.

Conduit.

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Conduit.

THE builders of the preſent Caſtle, taking a cue from the Romans, manifeſted their ingenuity in the Water Supply for the Caſtle. Finding a ſpring of good water among the crags on the other ſide of the Hockley gully, they erected a ſubſtantial water-houſe as a collecting tank (the old leadwork was carried to Welbeck a few years ago), and by means of a channel conducted the ſtream down the ſides of the gully, acroſs a ſmall rivulet, and up the promontory to a ſecond water-houſe adjoining the Caſtle, and level with the firſt.

This Conduit, locally called "condy," is ſtill in working order. The remains of a ſimilar conduit of Roman date may be ſeen at Southampton, ſupplying water to the French Gate. (The ſpring is in Hill Lane, in the grounds of Mr. Sprainger, a central water-houſe being near S. Peter's Church.)

The Caſtle water-houſe may be ſeen—the lower ſtorey being on the outſide of the wall—in the ſhrubbery, and an upper ſtorey near the greenhouſes in the Caſtle grounds. The remains of a window for the lower ſtorey are ſtill viſible. An overflow from this water-houſe runs under the Caſtle grounds into the old park, and now forms a water ſupply for the Bolſover Colliery Company's village.

King

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King Charles.

THE only king who ever to our knowledge honoured Bolſover with a viſit was Charles I., of revered memory; unleſs we take the ſtatement gathered from old documents in the Patent Rolls, that King John viſited Bolſover in A.D. 1200 and again in 1201, as true, which is doubtful. The viſit of Charles was in the days when the preſent Caſtle was in a perfect ſtate. Then the Manſion, which is now a crumbling ruin, formed the chief portion of the noble pile; the fields below formed a park, bounded by the ſtream that divides Bolſover from Duckmanton; ſervants peopled the Caſtle, and rich furniture garniſhed its halls.

The Marquis of Newcaſtle—who afterwards, in the time of reverſe, proved his loyalty to the Stuart family—the owner of the Caſtle in thoſe days, in the year 1633 entertained King Charles I. with great magnificence, ſpending ſome £4,000 on doing honour to his king. That Charles ſhould have been the kingly viſitor to Bolſover is an eſpecially pleaſing fact, as he was the king among all the ſovereigns of England who endeavoured to uphold the dignity of England's throne.

Living

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Living in peculiar times, among people in a reſtleſs ſpirit, apparently of a "devoted" family, Charles ſtrove to maintain the true idea of kingſhip, and to be the "able-man" of a powerful nation; and, within a few years of his viſits to Bolſover, ſuffered death as a witneſs to, or martyr for, the regal power, with all the noble dignity of which he was capable.

Bolſover was graced a ſecond time, about a year later, with the preſence of Charles, who brought with him the Queen Henrietta Maria; upon whoſe coming, as we learn from the "Ducheſs of Newcaſtle's Memoirs," "the Duke of Newcaſtle ſent for all the gentry of the county to come and wait on their Majeſties, and reſigned Welbeck for their Majeſties' lodging." From this account we gather that the King and Queen lived for the time at Welbeck, and drove over to Bolſover for a great feaſt and entertainment.

A play was compoſed for the occaſion by Ben Jonſon, entitled, "Love's Welcome." £14,000 is ſaid to have been ſpent on this banquet.

Unfortunately, ten years later, when Cromwell roſe in rebellion, the noble Marquis was not in the Caſtle to protect Bolſover from the rebel army.

Siege

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Siege of Bolſover.

BUT a few years had paſſed away ſince the welcome viſit of England's king to Bolſover when civil war broke out on every ſide, under the leaderſhip of Cromwell, Fairfax, and other agitators, who, under the pretence of religion and liberty, deſtroyed the former and ſet up abſolute tyranny in place of the latter.

We can well imagine, then, with what fear the people of Bolſover would regard the movements of the rebels, eſpecially when in their own neighbourhood; with what haſte they would hide their precious carving of the Manger of Bethlehem when they heard of the deſecration committed by the fanatics to the Houſes of God; how the women and children would flee acroſs the moors to any place of refuge when the cry went forth, "The Rebels are upon us."

Then it was that the rebel army, coming along the Sheffield Road (Hill Top) as deſcribed below, took their ſtand within the old earthworks, on the raiſed field now (1895) occupied by Mr. Abel Sykes, and adjoining his houſe. It was from this point that the cannon ball was ſhot, the mark of which may ſtill be ſeen on the ſtone gate-poſts of the Caſtle.

 The

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The following is an account of the ſiege extracted from Glover's "Hiſtory of Derbyſhire," and taken by him from the old chronicles of the rebels :—

"Shortly after Auguſt 16th, 1644, the noble Major-General having left Col. Bright, a commiſſioner of my Lord Fairfax, and a party of foot in the Caſtle" (Sheffield), "by the order of the moſt noble Earl of Mancheſter, advanced toward Bolſover Caſtle about 8 miles from Sheffield. It be another ſtronghold of Marqueſſe Newcaſtle's in Derbyſhire, which was well manned with ſoldiers, and ſtrengthened with great guns, one whereof carried 18 pound bullets, others nine, and it had ſtrong works about it: yet this Caſtle alſo, upon ſummons was ſoon rendered up to my Lord's forces, upon fair and moderate articles granted to them.

"It pleaſed God to give us in this Caſtle of Bolſover 120 muſkets, beſide pikes, halberts, etc. Also an iron drake, ſome leaden bullets, two mortar pieces, ſome other drakes, nine barrels of powder, with a proportion of match, ſome victuals for our ſoldiers, and ſome plunder."

Caſtle,

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Caſtle, Poſſeſſors of.

(LEURIC. Circa 1050.
William Peveril. 1068.)
William Peveril, jun., who built the Norman Caſtle.
Crown. 1153-1189.
Governors—
Richard de Peck.
William de Briwere.
Brian de L'Iſle.
William de Briwere. 1204.*
Robert de Vetriponte. 1205.*
Brian de Inſula. 1208.*
Nicholas de Chenet. 1209.*
William de Ferrers. 1216.
Brian de L'Iſle. 1216.*
Gerard de Furnival. 1216.*
William Ferrers, Earl of Derby. 1219.*
Brian de L'Iſle. 1223.*
Robert de Lexington.
William de Briwere.
Robert de Tatſhall.
Brian de L'Iſle.
Hugh le de Spencer.

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Gilbert de Segrave.
William Ferrers.
John the Scot, circa 1234, Earl of Chefter.
Henry de Haftings, Lord of Abergavenny. 1238.*
Crown. 1243-1315.
Governors—
Robert de Crepping. 1245.*
Roger de Lovetot. 1253.
Walter de la Grave. 1282.*
Ralph Pipard. 1301.
John de Everdon.*
Robert de Malo Lacu. 1310.*
Crown. Governor—Sir Richard Sturey. 1395.
Robert Litton, partial owner.
Farmed by Ralph, Lord Cromwell. 1448.
Edmund Tudor, who probably built the Bailey wall.
Crown. 1485.
Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk. 1514.*
Roger Grenehalgh. 1544.*
Crown. 1546.
Sir John Byrom. 1554. (?)
George Lord Talbot, Earl of Salop. 1553.*
Befs of Hardwick, who began the prefent Caftle.
Sir Charles Cavendifh. 1608-1617.

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* Verified 1895 at the Record Office.—Ed.

William

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William Cavendiſh, Marquis of Newcaſtle. 1617-1644.
Cromwell the Rebel. 1644-1660.
William Cavendiſh again. 1660-1676.
Henry Duke of Newcaſtle. 1676-1691.
Lady Margaret Cavendiſh. 1691.
Lady Margaret Cavendiſh Harley, Counteſs of Oxford.
The Dukes of Portland. 1734 to preſent day.
Allowed as a vicarage. Circa 1820-1880.
Now vacant.

The

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The Bentinck Family.

THE firſt of the noble family of Bentincks who ſettled in England was William, Lord of Diepenham. He held various appointments in the Court of Prince William of Orange. Among others, he attended his Prince as gentleman of the bedchamber, on a viſit to England in 1670. He, moreover, performed many important ſervices for him, at one time nurſing the Prince through a dangerous ſickneſs; the Prince on his recovery returning the kindneſs by nurſing Lord William Bentinck.

He was created Earl of Portland, 1689.

Henry, ſon of William Bentinck, was created Duke of Portland, 1716.

William, ſon of Henry, born 1708, married Lady Margaret Cavendiſh Harley in 1734, and became ſecond Duke of Portland.

The third Duke was William Henry Cavendiſh Bentinck, born 1738, and ſucceeded to the title 1762; "and," as Guthrie ſays, "after finiſhing the courſe of his education at Weſtminſter School, ſet out upon his travels, from whence he returned and took his ſeat in the houſe of peers."

Guthrie gives the titles of the family in 1763 as (1) Duke of Portland, (2) Marquis of Titchfield, (3) Earl of Portland, (4) Vicount Woodſtock, (5) Baron of Cirenceſter.

Extracts

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Extracts from State Papers.

Rotuli Litterarum Patentium. (Royal Record Office.)

"8 JUNE, 1310. Windſor.—Grant for life to Robert de Malo Lacu, for his good ſervice to the late and preſent kings, of the Caſtle and Manor of Bolleſovre, rendering yearly for the ſame one ſore-hawk. Mandate to Maſter John de Everdon to deliver to him the Caſtle, with its armour, victuals, &c."

"17 April, 1313."—Documents ſhowing that Robert de Malo Lacu was ſtill in poſſeſſion of Bolſover.

"13 April, 1322. Pontefract. — Extra men to be amoved, which had been placed in the Caſtle of Boleſovre during the late diſturbances in the realm."

Rotuli Chartarum. (Royal Record Office.)

In the year 1200, Robert Avenel was "Perſona" (parſon) of Bolſover.

Calendar

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Calendar of State Papers.

Domeſtic Series.

"7TH March, 1628. Weſtminſter.—Grant to William Viſcount Manſfield, of the feveral dignities of Lord Cavendiſh, of Bolſover, in co. Derby, and Earl of Newcaſtle-upon-Tyne."

"10 October, 1631. Bolſover.—William Earl of Newcaſtle to the Council. The infection of the plague has prevented the taking muſters for co. Nottingham. Incloſes account for co. Derby. 1. Certificate of forces of co. Derby, with proviſion of ammunition: Totals—trained ſoldiers, 400; private arms, 400; horſe, 72; forces of the clergy, 50."

"10 Auguſt, 1644."—A document with this date is a letter from Edward Earl of Mancheſter, a commander of the rebel army, in which he expreſſes his fear of having to "paſs under the danger of Bolſover Caſtle" on his way from Newark to Cheſter.

"20 September, 1644."—George Hancock, in a petition to a Committee under the Rebels, aſks for a penſion, and ſtates that he was "at the taking of BOZER Caſtle."

"10 December, 1644.—The Committee of both Kingdoms

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doms ordered, That a letter be written to the Committee of Derby to certify to this Committee their reaſons why Bolſover Caſtle ſhould not be kept up as a garriſon, and in the mean time to deſire them to provide for it as for their other forces, till further order from this Committee."

"13 December, 1644. Derby Houſe.—Committee of both Kingdoms to the Committee of Derby. Some of your county have petitioned us for the maintenance of a garriſon in Bolſover Caſtle, while others have decided that it ſhould be demoliſhed. This Committee deſires to know the reaſons why you would have the fortifications thereof demoliſhed."

"31 January, 1644-45. York.—Ferdinando Lord Fairfax, Sir Thos. Fairfax, Francis Pierrepont, Sir William Conſtable, and Robert Goodwin to the Committee of both Kingdoms. That Col. Aſhenhurſt, governor of Bolſover Caſtle, with divers gentlemen of Derbyſhire, has been with us: he has performed the truſt repoſed in him very carefully for the laſt ſix months. It was and is a place very conſiderable, and neceſſary, as we conceive, to be maintained and kept as a garriſon, being a frontier to the county; yet, notwithſtanding, Sir John Gell, in diſpoſing of the money of the county, has not thought fit to give any allowance during this time. We recommend this to your conſideration, that the col. and commanders with him may be thought of according to their merits, and order

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taken for the continuance of the pay of the garriſon ſo long as it ſhall be thought neceſſary to be kept."

"13 November, 1645.—Proceedings at the Committee of both Kingdoms. Ordered: 1. That the articles of agreement concerning the diſ-garriſoning of Welbeck, Bolſover and Tickhill, being now read, are agreed to, and the ſame to be ſignified to Col.-Genl. Poyntz and the Committees of Derby and Notts. 2. That the garriſon of Bolſover and Tickhill be ordered to march and join Col.-Genl. Poyntz in the ſervice againſt Newark."

"22 Auguſt, 1648. Proceedings at the Committee of both Houſes, at Derby Houſe. Preſent, Earl of Mulgrave" and others. "Ordered, That the Lord General's letter on behalf of Col. Aſhenhurſt, to be [appointed] Governor of Bolſover Caſtle, be recommended to the conſideration of the Committee of co. Derby."

Calendar of State Papers: Domeſtic Series. M. A. E. Green, 1875:—

"27 Mar., 1649.—Order in Parliament, That the Council of State conſider as to the preſent demoliſhing of Bolſover and Clithero Caſtles."

"23 June, 1649.—The Commiſſioners for county Derbyſhire to ſee that Bolſover Caſtle is made untenable, according to the deſire of the gentlemen of the county, and the materials ſold to defray expenſes."

"2

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"2 July, 1649. Whitehall.—Council of State to the Derbyſhire Committee, To avoid the charge of a garriſon in Bolſover Caſtle, and yet to prevent danger if it ſhould be ſurpriſed and kept by an enemy, we refer it to your care to do it ſo as the Houſe itſelf, as it relates to private habitation, may be as little prejudiced as may be; but let the outworks abroad, and garden walls of the frontier court that are of ſtrength be demoliſhed, and all the doors of the houſe be taken away and ſlight ones ſet in their place; as alſo the iron bars of the windows, and the material of the walls that are taken down improved to the beſt, and the charge of demoliſhing defrayed out of the revenue thereof. And for the better expediting this work, the ſoldiers now there are to be employed thereon, and not drawn thence until it is finiſhed."

"2 March, 1650.—The Lord General to ſend Major Taylour's company, now at Bolſover, to Nottingham Caſtle, for the better ſtrengthening of that place."

"13 April, 1650.—To write the Commiſſioners for Derbyſhire to proceed with the demolition of Bolſover Caſtle, according to the Act of Parliament."

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Church.

AS has been pointed out elſewhere (page 13), there is ſtrong evidence to ſhow that the place occupied by the Chriſtian Church now was the ſite of a temple dedicated to the god Bel, or Baal.

At ſome date (656 has been ſuggeſted), but it was probably in the earlier days of Chriſtianity a Chriſtian Altar was firſt erected. And though this building has yielded to age and to ſucceſſive erections, and though peoples, Governments, cuſtoms, and details have changed, the Faith of the Catholic Church and ſervices have here remained the ſame in all eſſential points. The Liturgy is the ſame except in details, the prieſts have the ſame orders, the worſhippers in this church belong to the ſame one Holy Catholic Church, and the Euchariſtic Sacrifice has been here offered for perhaps the last twelve hundred years or more.

In Saxon times, about A.D. 1000, a ſtone church was built, of which a portion ſtill remains; namely, part of ſouth wall of the chancel, including the prieſt's doorway and prieſt's window. Over this doorway is a tympanum, on which is carved the Crucifixion of our Bleſſed Saviour, with our Lady and S. John ſtanding by (ſee plate). The prieſt's

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prieſt's window was, as now, for the purpoſe of giving light to the miniſter in his ſtall. It has been called a "Lazarus window for viewing the celebration of Maſs"; but, as may eaſily be ſeen, the altar could not have been in view from this window, ſince it muſt have been eaſt of the prieſt's door, hence could not have ſerved this purpoſe. A ſimilar prieſt's window is in Perivale Church, Middleſex.

About the year 1200 an "Early Engliſh" building ſeems to have replaced the earlier. Of this building there ſtill remains a conſiderable portion, namely, the chancel arch, once deſtroyed, but literally "reſtored" to its place in 1878, the ſtones of the arch being found in the north wall; ſome portions of the chancel, including the corner buttreſſes; the ſouth aiſle pillars and ſome portion of the arches; the ſouth wall and portions of the window traceries; the tower up to the beginning of the ſpire; font; altar tomb in the ſouth aiſle, which, perhaps, belongs to the founder of this thirteenth century building; (the upper portions of this tomb and the ſlab itſelf are modern repairs).

The lower part of the eaſt window is old—perhaps of "Perpendicular" date—and is blocked up with ſtone, and apparently always has been.

Other old treaſures are—the tomb ſlab of "William Woodhouſe, Eſq.," 1310; three ſlabs, each with a full-length inciſed ornamental croſs, on the chancel floor, (there

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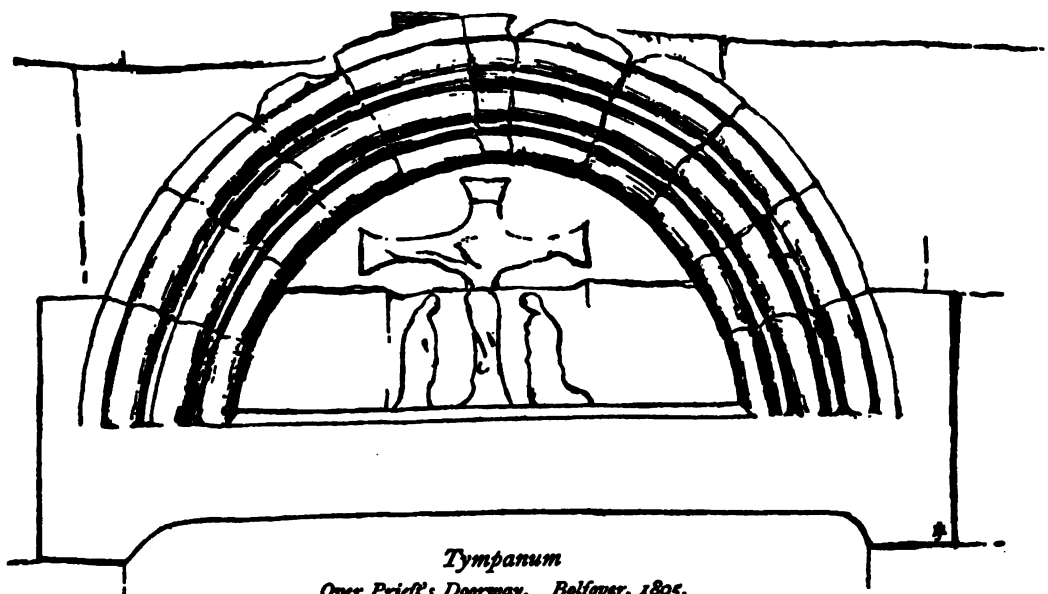

Tympanum
Over Priest's Doorway. Bolsover, 1895.

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(there are two others in the Caſtle wall, below the terrace); an ambry in the ſouth-eaſt corner of the chancel—*i.e.*, a cupboard for the ſafe keeping of the ſacred veſſels—but the door and ſhelf are loſt. The Bethlehem is mentioned ſeparately.

Sacred Veſſels.—The ancient church plate has vaniſhed, as in moſt pariſhes. At preſent, there is a fairly old ſilver chalice of Pruſſian or Auſtrian make, date about 1700 A.D. Previous to 1893 (when a ſmall ſilver paten was given by ſubſcription) there was no paten; a plated ſalver, intended to hold the "breads" on the credence, being uſed in its place. There is a large flagon.

Bells.—The ancient bells, like the plate, have diſappeared, modern ones having taken their place, not one of the mediæval bells remaining. The bells are ſix in number, and are well rung.

Manger

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Manger of Bethlehem.

ONE of the moſt remarkable and precious poſſeſſions of Bolſover is the ancient and unique carving of the Manger of Bethlehem. This object of devotion ſeems at all times to have been held in veneration by the faithful here. So unique and uncommon is this carving that an explanation of its object will not be out of place.

Sometimes there may be met with what is termed a "Calvary"—*i.e.*, a carved repreſentation of our moſt Bleſſed Lord as crucified on Calvary—to remind the faithful of the coſt of their redemption; ſometimes a "Sepulcher," repreſenting our Lord as reſting in the tomb after the hard won battle of Good Friday, to remind the faithful of their ſins which put to death the Son of God. Again, at Chriſt's-Maſs time, may be met with in churches a temporary "Manger of Bethlehem," to remind the faithful of Him "Who for us men and for our ſalvation came down from heaven." Now it was with this latter object that, in days gone by (circa A.D. 1300), one or more of the believers gave this permanent "Manger of Bethlehem" to the Church of Bolſover.

This "Bethlehem" is of one block of ſtone, carved in relief—in length, five feet; in height, two and a half feet; in

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Bethlehem :
Devotional Carving in Bolsover Church,
As in 1895.

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in depth, one foot—and conſiſts of: the Stable, the Holy Child (headleſs now) ſitting on His Mother's knee; S. Joſeph (headleſs); one of the royal Magi ſwinging a cenſer in the ſhape of a crown; another figure, a child (half head miſſing), poſſibly S. John Baptiſt; the Ox and Aſs looking over the Manger. The figure of Our Lady is perfect, and ſeems once to have had a jewel on her breaſt.

The hiſtory of this Bethlehem ſeems to be as follows:—

(1) About A.D. 1300, placed in Bolſover Church as a reminder to the faithful, and occupied a place of honour and veneration for ſome 340 years.

(2) 1644 or thereabout, buried with care, face downward, near the prieſt's doorway on the ſouth ſide of the chancel, where it remained for ſome 60 years, during the diſturbed and iconoclaſtic periods of the ſeventeenth century.

(3) About 1705, remembered by the old people and reſtored to a place inſide the church, where it has remained ever ſince, with more or leſs veneration, and is ſtill (1894) decorated with flowers at Chriſt's-Maſs.

Great honour is due to Bolſover for having preſerved ſo rare a relic, and it is to be much wiſhed that this treaſure may be repaired, and enſhrined in a more permanent manner.

Cavendiſh

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Cavendiſh Chapel.

THIS Chapel was erected—probably on the ſite of the Lady Chapel, or Chapel of the Bethlehem—in 1617, for the reception of the tomb of Sir Charles Cavendiſh, who died that year. The tomb is one of the fineſt of its kind, very early Jacobean. Sir Charles and his wife, Baroneſs Ogle (in her own right), lie in effigy, ſide by ſide, in alabaſter; and below are figures of three ſons. Height of tomb circa 26 feet. Blue and other marbles enrich this tomb.

The Chapel contains another large monument, rather higher than the firſt, of the Corinthian ſtyle. This, as well as the former, coſt many thouſands of pounds—ſomething like £15,000 is ſaid to have been the coſt of this one. It was erected to the memory of Henry Cavendiſh, ſecond Duke of Newcaſtle, who died 1691, and whoſe body lies buried in the vault beneath.

Several others have been ſince buried in the ſame vault, among others the late Baroneſs Bolſover.

The Chapel being encloſed, and the door kept under lock and key, the monuments are in all but perfect ſtate. The architect of the Chapel, and alſo of the Caſtle, was Huntingdon Smithſon, who during the latter part of his life reſided at Bolſover.

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An Old Diary.

THE diary of a certain Benjamin Granger has come down to us, from which we gather ſomething of the life of Bolſover people in old times. Granger ſeems to have been a lawyer living at Bolſover at the end of the ſeventeenth century, and his diary covers the years 1688—1708.

We are told in this diary that the income of the endowment of the church was only £14 a year; and though this ſum would go further in thoſe days than it would now in Bolſover (where the rent of a labourer's cottage is £9—£15 a year), yet, even then, no one without an income from another ſource could well make ends meet. Then, as now, the Engliſh mind could not welcome or underſtand a prieſt who was willing to live a poor and hard life for the love of God; hence, if he had not money, he was tempted to live as if he had. The people make the prieſt.

So we find frequent changes at the church, there being no leſs than three vicars in the ten years 1690—1700.

The hiſtory of the Bolſover clergy ſeems to have been that, if they once came to this moor town, they were forgotten by the biſhops and the reſt of the world, and left

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left either to ſtruggle on alone till death, or to fall a victim to deſpair.

1690 onward were the days when no honourable prieſt could hold a charge, all England having loſt its ſenſe of right and honour. The clergy had taken oath to James II., of glorious memory, as their rightful king, and when required to reject their king for an uſurper, the good and the true, headed by ſeven faithful biſhops of the Church of God, retired from their charges; ſo that there is no wonder that a perjured prieſt ſhould be a faithleſs paſtor. Hence we read in the diary that the dead were buried "without Chriſtian burial," rich and poor alike The diary mentions, however, that the Duke of Newcaſtle, at his funeral at Bolſover, "had the ſerimoneyes of the church adminiſtered;" but only becauſe his family brought their own prieſt.

A church rate in thoſe days would come to about £15, for repairs to the church, etc. This was at the rate of fourpence in the pound. The town was governed by a conſtable, who ſeems to have been appointed yearly, or, at leaſt, very frequently, as we read of ſix being appointed within ſeventeen years.

Church

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Church Regiſters.

THE Church Regiſters are original, on rough vellum, partly in Latin, neatly bound of late years, date from 1603, and are in three volumes.

The following details are extracted from the MS. title pages in the books:—

Vol. I. 1603—1667 (ſize, 13½in. by 5½in.).

The contents of this volume may be divided into parts, as follows:—

Part 1. Burials and Marriages, 1603 A.D. Baptiſms, Marriages, and Burials, 1604—17, entered conſecutively year by year.

Part 2. After 1617 the Marriages follow ſeparately, 1618—51; then (after ſome interpolations) Baptiſms, 163$\frac{1}{2}$—52. *Note:* The Baptiſms between 1618 and 1631 are miſſing. After the entries of 1652 there is one Baptiſm of 1654, one of 1667, and, at back, one of 1663. Burials 16$\frac{17}{18}$ to Nov., 1646.

Vol. II. 1653—1705 (ſize, 20¾in. by 6in.).

This volume contains the appointment of Thomas Baker to be regiſtrar of Bolſover in the "Commonwealth" period, 1653.

Part

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Part 1. Baptiſms, Proclamations of Intentions of Marriages, Marriages actual, and Burials, Jan., 1653—April, 1657. Then occurs an hiatus until 1663, except a few interpolations on blank ſpaces of the laſt leaf.

Part 2. Marriages, Burials, and Baptiſms, 1662—1704.

Vol. III. 170$\frac{4}{5}$—1757 (ſize, 13½in. by 6½in.).

Baptiſms, Jan., 170$\frac{4}{5}$—8th Aug., 1711; Burials, Jan., 170$\frac{4}{5}$—10th Sept., 1711. *Note:* Below the laſt burials is interpolated a baptiſm, 28th June, 1731, and one of 173$\frac{7}{8}$. Burials, 14 April, 1713—September, 1714, with interpolation of later date. Odd Baptiſms and Marriages, 170$\frac{7}{8}$—1714.

There are alſo later regiſters.

Market

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Market Places and Croſs.

IN the centre of Bolſover are two old Market Places, in the upper of which ſtand the remains of the ancient Croſs, the baſe of which is eight feet square, with five tiers of ſteps.

In the purer days of Chriſtianity, the people of Bolſover erected this croſs—the ſymbol of our redemption—as an acknowledgment of their faith. This Croſs ſeems to have ſurvived the various religious changes in the ſixteenth and ſeventeenth centuries, but about the time of the later Georges was allowed to fall into decay, till at laſt it reached the ruinous ſtate that Pleaſley Croſs now (1894) exhibits. About 1887, the ſteps of Bolſover Croſs were repaired, but diſgraced by the erection of a lamp-poſt in the ſocket of the Croſs.

In 1894, a generous offer was made by a former curate of Bolſover to reſtore, at his own coſt, this Market Croſs, to plant trees and place ſeats near; but this offer was rejected by the Local Board of that year, to the loſs of the town.

Formerly, the town had an important Chartered Market, dating from the thirteenth century, but loſt its rights ſometime about the firſt rebellion in the ſeventeenth century.

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A "Statutes Fair," or hiring fair, at one time was held in Bolſover, November the firſt; and other fairs on Eaſter Monday and S. John Baptiſt day. Theſe two laſt-named fairs were held, later on, the laſt Friday in April and the firſt Friday in October, but have ceaſed altogether; now, every Friday and Saturday evening, a few ſtalls may be ſeen in the lower Market Place. But the Bolſover tradeſpeople are very conſervative, and ſtrongly oppoſe any attempt to reſtore the town to its old poſition among its neighbours, and to combine in trade, or welcome ſtrangers.

Patronal Feaſts.

THE Patronal Feaſts—S. Mary, Auguſt 15th; and S. Laurence, Auguſt 10th—are no longer kept as high feſtival at the altar of God. The name, however, and the ſecular part of the feſtival are kept up during the week; and though the pariſh do not aſſemble round God's altar, yet, on the Sunday neareſt to S. Laurence Feaſt, a children's flower ſervice in the afternoon and an open-air addreſs in the churchyard in the evening are held.

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Ancient Religious Buildings.

IN High Street, Bolſover, there is ſtill ſtanding an ancient red brick (ſmall Jacobean bricks) building, erected in 1662 by the Preſbyterians of Cheſterfield and the neighbourhood, who, by exiſting law, were refused liberty of religion in a chartered town. This meeting-houſe did ſervice for the Preſbyterians till 1772, when the Preſbyterian congregation metamorphoſed themſelves into Independents, and was uſed by the Independents till 1893, when the building of their forefathers in religion was rejected for a newer erection.

A ſtory is told of one of their young preachers who, in 1716, preached an independent ſermon to the independent Preſbyterian congregation of this meeting-houſe in thoſe days, and was there and then rejected. Whereupon this young man ſubmitted himſelf to the Catholic Church, and, after receiving holy orders as a prieſt, was commiſſioned by her to preach to a more ſubmiſſive people, over whom he afterwards ruled as Metropolitan of Canterbury. This was Thomas Secker.

Another ancient building connected with this part of Derbyſhire is the chapel of the Roman Nonconformiſts at Spinkhill, a few miles from Bolſover. This hill, once ſurrounded

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rounded by ſwamps and marſhes, was (in the days of the bloody perſecutions under Elizabeth and the Puritans) a ſafe hiding place, and for three hundred years a reſort for the Roman proteſtors againſt the Engliſh Church. A fine ſpecimen of a Jacobean holy water ſtoup is on the outſide wall of the chapel. This chapel, however, is no longer kept ſacred, but uſed as a claſs-room, and is ſituated over the entrance hall of the college of the Society of Jeſus. Sprinkhill is and has been the head-quarters of the Romans who have dwelt in Bolſover and its neighbourhood.

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Domeſday Book, Extract from.

"IN Beleſovre Leuric had iii carucates of land hidable. Land for iv ploughs. There now in demeſne ii ploughs, and xiv villanes and iii bordars having iv ploughs and viii acres of meadow, Wood, paſturable, ii miles in length, and i in breadth. T.R.E. VAL xl ſhillings; now lx Robert holds it."

Government.

IN early days, the reſident owner, or governor of the Caſtle was probably the governor of the town as well. In 1833, John Gorton, in his "Topographical Dictionary," says, "The town is governed by a conſtable and 2 headboroughs, appointed by the Duke of Portland's Copyhold Court."

In 1893, a Local Board was granted to the town. In 1894, an Urban Diſtrict Council came into power, the chairman for the time being Juſtice of the Peace, *ex-officio*. Office on this Council is greatly ſought after, the working-claſſes contending with the well-to-do and better educated men of the town.

Education.

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Education.

THERE is no old Foundation School in the town as there is in other neighbouring places, ſuch as Cheſterfield, Manſfield, Staveley, etc. During the laſt 150 years outſiders have opened ſchools in Bolſover, which, not receiving the ſupport of the people, have one after the other died out.

Elementary education has all but ſuffered the ſame fate. In 1756, the Counteſs of Oxford left £6 a year as an endowment for a ſchool; but no one elſe augmented this ſmall ſum, ſo that in 1829 the Rev. J. H. Gray found ſix ſcholars only. With great efforts, Mr. Gray, and afterwards the Rev. T. C. Hills, were enabled to perſuade the people of Bolſover to give their children ſome kind of education. In 1872, by a Compulſory Education Act, the Government coming to the aid, made a law by which all children, whoſe parents would not educate them otherwiſe, ſhould be taken from home for certain hours of the day and put under elementary inſtruction.

The elementary ſchool buildings have lately been en larged, and other elementary ſchools built in the pariſh.

Potteries.

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Potteries.

Slip Pottery.

NEAR the Market Place, on the left-hand ſide going towards Town End, on a plot of ground uſed by Mr Chriſtopher Hinde as a garden, ſome 150 pieces of old pottery have been found, repreſenting 25 different "pots.' (Theſe pieces are now in the Britiſh, Nottingham, and Derby Muſeums.)

On reference to a document in the poſſeſſion of the ſame Mr. Hinde, dated $17\frac{49}{50}$, we find that the pottery up to that date was in the hands of Meſſrs. Thomas Robinſon, William Robinſon (probably brothers), and Thomas Robinſon the younger. At this date (1749), a Samuel Brailſford, who had premiſes near, ſeems to have complained of the pot-works as a nuiſance. Four tradeſmen of the town, poſſibly relations of the Robinſons, bound themſelves under a ſum of £20, payable to S. Brailſford, to obtain the conſent of the potters, and cauſe the nuiſance to ceaſe. The document is a bond ſigned by the three Robinſons, agreeing "to remove or pull down the pot-work or pot-works, ſmoaking" (ſic) "houſe or ſmoaking houſes," on or before June 24th, $17\frac{49}{50}$, or to ceaſe from working them, under the ſum of £40, payable to the above-mentioned

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above-mentioned tradeſmen, namely, Thomas Hind, William Wilſon, Thomas Taylor, and John Nixon. One of theſe Robinſons left Bolſover about this time, and ſet up a pottery at Brampton.

The kind of pottery made at Bolſover was brown ware with a high glaze, ſometimes plain, ſometimes mottled, or with an inciſed "ſlip." Very few whole ſpecimens of Bolſover ware have come to light; but the being able to locate a "Slip" pottery is very important in the hiſtory of ceramics.

Known ſpecimens of Bolſover pottery, 1895, are as follows:—

(1) Light-brown ſpeckled porringer.
(2) Brown muſtard pot.
Both the above in poſſeſſion of Mr. C. Hinde.
(3) Sugar baſon. Rev. T. C. Hills.
(4) Sugar baſon. Cottage, Hill Top, Bolſover.
(5) Charger. Mr. S. Richards, Old Friary, Nottingham.
(6) Mug. 1762. } Mr. C. Hinde.
(7) Ink pot. }

The two laſt are probably not actually of Bolſover make (the date of one is againſt it), but made by Robinſon at Brampton.

Pipe Potteries.

Mr. G. Beaumont and Capt. Hy. Diſney, paſſing through Bolſover

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Bolſover in 1766, deſcribe it as "a ſmall, well-built town, noted only for making fine tobacco pipes."

There ſeems to have been more than one pipe pottery, the chief one ſituated ſomewhere about Hockley valley Many ſpecimens of theſe pipes are ſtill found waſhed out of the ground by a ſmall ſtream, and are locally called "Fairy pipes," the idea being that they are uſed by fairies under the Caſtle.

The ſtream, which now has a channel, once ſpread itſelf over the low ground forming the bed of the rivulet; and the waſte or faulty pipes of the pottery adjoining this water (which would be uſeful in the mixing and waſhing), would be caſt into the ſtream, as to-day is done at Brampton, and by it imbedded in the mud.

The bowls of theſe pipes are ſmall in diameter, and thick, and the ſtems ſtout.

An old clay urn, of crude make, was found (1893) in Town End while digging the foundation of a building (Portland Café), and is now in the poſſeſſion of Mr. A. Sykes.

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Chalybeate Spa.

SOME two and a half miles from Bolſover Market Place, toward the end of the pariſh, in the direction of Barlborough, is a mineral ſpring of ſtrong ſulphurous properties. Sixteen feet from the ſpring is the Spa Bath, built apparently about the year 1550 A.D., and repaired 1890. The bath is ſmall, being only fourteen feet long, nine feet broad, four and a half feet deep, and with a varying depth of water. The date of the actual diſcovery of the Spaw (as it is locally called and ſpelt), and the earlieſt medicinal uſe of its waters, are loſt in obſcurity.

The legend runs that a ſow, being unwell, ſeeking a cure, by chance diſcovered its ſalient qualities, and, rolling in its health-reſtoring ſtream, was watched by the early inhabitants of Shuttlewood (as that portion of the pariſh is named), who followed her example in times of ſickneſs. This is ſaid to have taken place in very remote ages, about the ſame time that the other ſow diſcovered the other waters at the City of Bath, in Somerſet. Pigs were diſcerning creatures in thoſe days.

Thos. Short, in his "Hiſtory of Mineral Waters," 1734, page 304 of copy at the Muſeum of Practical Geology, ſays :—

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" Shuttlewood-Spaw, on the Common, between Bolſover and Romeley, riſes up Weſtward, out of a whitiſh clay and Free ſtone; and not far off, are Iron ſtone and Coal, and at a little diſtance Lime-ſtone: But our Water is obliged to none of the three laſt for its Principles, being impregnated only with a little Sulphur and Marine Salt. Sixteen Pints of this Water exhal'd, left half an Ounce of very white ſediment, a 24th Part whereof was Earth. The ſediment of this Water is to its Vehicle, as 1 to 512. The ſalt diſſolved, and ſet to cryſtallize was wholly Marine. However, this Spaw has been very ſucceſsful in curing pimpled faces, Eruptions on the Skin, old Ulcers, Strangury; and by bathing in it, Lameneſs, Weakneſs of the Joynts, Scab, &c. It is now made very convenient, the charitably diſpoſed Mr. Ch. Baſſeldine of Clown having put down a fine ſmall Baſon, encloſed the Spring, and made a Bath below, into which the Baſon empties itſelf, at his own Expences. The Water crudles Soap in a minute; the Pidgeons about come to drink of it."

James Pilkington, in his "View of Derbyſhire," 1789, ſays:—

" Shuttlewood bath is not covered in, or even encloſed with a wall, and the ſituation being exceedingly inconvenient, it is ſeldom uſed, even by thoſe who reſide in the neighbourhood."

The

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The following is a copy of a Notice, dated alſo 1789, in the hands of Mr. John Adin, of Stanfree (1894):—

"Manor of Bolſover June 1789.

"Whereas diſputes have at Different times happened betwixt People going to Shuttlewood Spaw and the occupier of the Land through which a Footway was Awarded to the Spaw—Which diſputes hath chiefly been occaſioned for want of ſtiles being kept up and ſuch footway left as is proper—Notice is hereby given that if ſtiles" (ſic) "is not ſet up, and ſuch footway Diſtinctly ſet out, And all Encroachments about the ſpaw removed of the Land Awarded to the Public Complaint will be made of ſuch neglect and Encroachment in a Court where redreſs will be obtained For the Public."

Here is what is left of a letter dated 1826, alſo in the hands (1894) of Mr. John Adin, from the Vicar of Cheſterfield:—

"Sir

"I have received your letter and am exceedingly concerned to hear of the injury that has been done at Shuttlewood Spa.

"I will ſpeak to the Magiſtrates who will, I dare ſay, ſuggeſt the courſe moſt proper to be purſued. In the mean time perhaps you will have the goodneſs to ſearch the award, and ſee whether any proviſion be made for

 the

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the repairs of the Bath, etc. The intereſt you take in the preſervation of that . . . " (a few lines are here torn off) " office which I a . . . now devolves on you.

" I am Sir

" Very truly yours

" I. HILL.

" Cheſterfield Aug. 4th 1826."

A ſpecial coach from Sheffield is ſaid to have once been run to and from Shuttlewood " Spaw."

About half a mile from the bath is an old houſe known by the name of *Rom*ely Hall. Does this point to a Roman villa having been in this neighbourhood? Stanfree, about one mile diſtant, is another name of poſſible Roman origin.

Odds

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Odds and Ends.

STANFREE, a hamlet about two and a quarter miles from Bolſover Market Place, is thought by ſome to derive its name from the fact that though in a ſtony neighbourhood, it is free from ſurface ſtone: or it may have a Roman or Britiſh origin. Iron ſeems to have been ſmelted here in primitive ages; and coal was worked ſome 500 years ago. Remains of the workings of both are found. The four roads meeting here are ſaid, by tradition to have once been main roads of England, and Stanfree to have been a ſpecial meeting place.

An Award was made of land in Bolſover, probably common moorland, in the ſixteenth century.

An Encloſure of common lands was made 1778.

Old Houſes containing relics of intereſt are—

The Swan Inn.

Dr. Coles' houſe, High Street, containing an ancient cellar.

Mr. Pearce's houſe, High Street, the back portions and early brick ſhed.

Mr. Charles Hill's, High Street, wainſcotted room.

Houſe near Vicarage, with dormer windows.

In

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In Hockley may be found remains of ſixteenth and ſeventeenth century houſes.

Wood houſe, bottom of Blind Lane.

Bolſover gave the title of Baroneſs Bolſover to the late ſtep-mother of the preſent Duke of Portland (1894).

The Pariſh Stocks remained in uſe in the Market Place till about 1830, but have ſince diſappeared.

Old Bell.—A ſeventeenth century bell, either belonging to the Church or town, is ſtill rung by the crier, but kept at the Vicarage.

Funeral Proceſſions, by ancient cuſtom, are formed; a band of boys or girls being ready to carry the coffin. Theſe bands are conducted with the greateſt order and reverence.

Bolſover Stone has been greatly in demand in former years, as may be ſeen by the extenſive quarries. Portions of Southwell Cathedral (Norman work) and of the preſent or former Houſes of Parliament are built of Bolſover ſtone.

Steel Buckles, of good ſhape and of great ſtrength, were made formerly in Bolſover.

Index.

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Index.

Abergavenny, M. of - - 36
Able-man - - - - 32
Abury - - - - - 17
Adin, J. - - - - - 67
Alcoves - - - - 25, 28
Arbelow - - - - - 14
Archway - - - - - 29
Aſhenhurſt - - - 41, 42
Avenel - - - - - 39
Award - - - - 67, 69
Baal, Connection with - 13, 44
Bailey Wall - - - - 25
Baker, Tho. - - - - 54
Ballidon - - - - - 14
Balſover - - - - - 14
Baſſeldine - - - - 66
Beeley - - - - - 14
Bells - - - - 47, 70
Belinus's Caſtle - - - 14
Belineſbury - - - - 14
Beltein Fires - - - - 14
Beleſovre - - - - 14
Bel, Connection with - 13, 44
Belper - - - - - 14
Bentinck, Family of - - 38
Berry Head - - - - 23
Bethlehem, Burying of - 33, 48, 50
Boles - - - - - 13
Boleſovre - - - - 39
Bolleſovre - - - - 14
Bolſover, Origin of Name - 13
Bolleſover - - - - 14
Books Conſulted - - - 11
Boulſover - - - - 14
Bowlſovre - - - - 14
Bozer - - - 13, 14, 40
Bray - - - - - 14
Bright - - - - - 34
Brown Dyke - - - - 19
Buckles - - - - - 70
Buck - - - - - 24
Buleſhour - - - - 14
Byrth Hill - - - - 17
Calvary - - - - - 48
Catholic Church - - 44, 58
Cavendiſh Chapel - - 20, 51
Cavendiſh - - - 36, 37
Charles I. - - - - 31
Cheſter - - - - 36, 40
Church - - - - 15, 44
Clithero Caſtle - - - 30
Colonizers of Britain - - 13
Conduit - - - - - 30
Cromwell - - - 32, 33
Croſs - - - - - 56
Danger of Bolſover - - - 40
Demoliſhing of Bolſover - 41, 42
Diepenbeck - - - - 24
Diſgarriſoning of Bolſover - 41
Diſturbances - - - - 39
Domeſday - - - - 60
Drakes - - - - - 34
Earthworks - - - - 17
Elleſborough - - - - 14
Encloſure - - - - 69
Endowment of Church - - 52
Everdon, John de - - 36, 39
Fairfax - - - - 33, 41
Fanatics, Cromwell's - - 33
Frontier - - - - 41, 43
Funerals - - - - - 70
Garriſon of Bolſover - 15, 39, 43
Gell, Sir John - - - - 41
Glover - - - - 11, 24, 34
Goodwin, R. - - - - 41
Governors - - - 35, 36
Government - - - - 60
Granger - - - - - 52

Digitized by Google

Gray - - - - - 21
Hancock, Petition of - - 40
Higgins - - - - - 13
High Place - - - - 13
Hill, J., Letter from - 67, 68
Hinde, C. - - - 62, 63
Independent Meeting-houſe - 58
James II. - - - - 53
Keep - - - - 26-28
Lady, Our - - - 44, 50
Lead - - - - - 13
Local Board - - - 56
Mancheſter, Earl of - 34, 40
Mansfield - - - 16, 40
Market Place - - - 56, 57
Market - - - - 56, 57
Markland Gripps - - - 17
Maſs, Daily - - - - 15
Mulgrave, Earl of - - - 42
Moorlands - - - - 52
Name, Origin of - - - 13
Newcaſtle - - - 34, 40, 53
Newark - - - - 40, 42
Norfolk, Duke of - - - 36
Norman Caſtle - - - 24
Nottingham Caſtle - - . 43
Ogle - - - - - 51
Oxford, C. of - - - - 61
Patronal Feaſts - - 57, 58
Pegge - - - - - 24
Perivale - - - - - 45
Peverel - - - - 21, 35
Perſona - - - - - 39
Pierrepont - - - - 41
Phœnicians - - - - 13
Plague - - - - - 40
Pleaſley Croſs - - - - 56
Pleſhey - - - - - 17
Pottery - - - - 62-64
Poyntz - - - - - 42
Preſbyterians - - - - 58
Preface - - - - - 7
Prieſt's Window - - 44, 45
Prieſt, Fearleſs - - - 15
Regiſters - - - 54, 55
Robert de Malo Lacu - 36, 39
Romeley - - - - 68
Roman Nonconformiſts - - 58
Rook - - - - - 24
Sacred Veſſels - - - - 47
Secker, Thos. - - - - 58
Shrewſbury, E. of - - 36
Shuttlewood - - - 65-68
Siege of Bolſover - - 33, 40
Smithſon - - - - - 51
Sore-hawk - - - - 39
Southampton - - - - 30
Spa - - - - 65-68
Spinkhill - - - - 58
Stanfree - - - - - 69
State Papers - - - 39-43
Statutes - - - - - 57
Stocks - - - - - 70
Stone - - - - - 70
Strikes - - - - - 15
Subſcribers - - - 9, 10
Sykes - - - - 33, 64
Taylour - - - - - 43
Temple - - - - - 44
Tickhill - - - - - 42
Tin - - - - - 13
Town, in Old Times - - 15
Town, Importance of - - 16
Tradeſpeople - - - - 57
Tring - - - - - 14
Tudor, Edmund - - 25, 36
Tympanum - - - 44, 46
Watch Towers - - - 19
Welbeck - - - - 32, 42
Weſtminſter - - - - 40
Whitehall - - - - 43
Windſor - - - - - 39
Woodhouſe, Wm. - - - 45
York - - - - - 41

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